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JAN 10 2012

Santa Fe Charter Schools Division

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

OPTION FOR PARENTS
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT CHARTER APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

According to NMSA § 22-8B-6(B) this Notice of Intent to Submit Charter Application ("NOI") must be filed by the organizers of a proposed charter school to the Public Education Commission at the address below and to the superintendent of the school district in which the charter school is proposed to be located. Failure to notify may result in your application being rejected.

This year the NOI is due by close of business, January 10, 2012. Notice by mail will be timely if it is postmarked on or by January 6, 2012.

Notice to the Public Education Commission should be delivered one of the following methods:

Electronically to:

By mail or personal delivery:

KellyCallahan2@state.nm.us

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION
c/o New Mexico Public Education Department
Attn: Ms. Kelly Callahan, General Manager
Options for Parents/Charter Schools Division
300 Don Gaspar, Room 301C
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

The NOI is to provide information for the primary point of contact, enrollment projections and a concise proposal overview (not to exceed 5 pages).

You are strongly encouraged to send notice to the Superintendent of your local district by certified mail return receipt requested, or request a signed receipt when you deliver the NOI. Contact your local district regarding electronic filing.

I. General Information:

Table with 2 columns: Field Name and Value. Fields include Name of Proposed School, Primary Contact Person, Mailing Address, City, and Phone.

2. Names, roles, and current employment of all persons on the applicant team, and qualifications of the team members to establish a high-quality charter school:

Name	Role	Employment	Qualifications
Janice Kowemy	Laguna Education Committee/Community Library	Pueblo of Laguna, Public Library	MS, Information Studies, 4 yrs as Librarian and 3 yrs on School Board
Bonnie Vallo	Laguna Education Committee/Youth Advocate	Youth Development Inc.- Elev8 (School Base Health)	BA, 15 years in Positive Youth and Community Development
Natalie Martinez	Laguna Education Committee/Middle School Educator	Laguna Middle School	Ph.D, w/ 20 yrs in Education and 4 years exp. starting a Charter School
Ruth Kie	Laguna Education Committee/Early Childhood	Laguna Division of Early Childhood	BS and 8 years Director of Early Childhood Education Program
Gilbert Sanchez	Laguna Education Committee/Philanthropy	New Mexico Community Foundation	MA w/35 yrs in Education 15 yrs as School Superintendent

3. Model or focus of the proposed school (e.g. performing arts, dual language, college prep, STEM):

Kawaika High School – The school will prepare students for a career path and choice of immediate employment, vocational training or college through a Blended Learning curriculum facilitated by a motivated, trained, culturally competent staff. The Blended Learning concept provides a ‘good’ mix of technologies and interactions, resulting in a socially supported, constructive, learning experience mixing synchronous and asynchronous learning that provides the flexibility for each student to meet their goals.

4. Does the school expect to contract with another entity for either management, or substantial oversight or direction in the school’s operation?

Yes: Describe the entity and role it will have in the school’s operational plan. No: .

5. Does the applicant team or any members of the team currently operate any other schools? Yes: No: .

6. If the proposal is a replication, identify the school(s) you are replicating and what data that you have to support this model should be replicated.

N/A

7. Vision/Mission statement. (2-3 sentences)

The Kawaika High School will provide an enriching, supportive educational experience to students in grades 9-12th of the Pueblo of Laguna and surrounding communities. The school staff will provide an environment of “learn by doing” philosophy using state of the art hardware and software technology and instructional strategies that supports a rigorous curriculum integrated with the State standards and benchmarks as well as to prepare students for their role in a global society and for their choice of pursuing employment opportunities or for post secondary education. The school will partner with each student (and family) to develop a personal education plan that will be regularly reviewed with the student to assess progress as well as to adjust the plan to guide the student through a successful high school experience supported by the core values of their family and culture including the value of lifelong learning.

8. Student body to be served, including key demographic data and targeted geographical area of the proposed school. Describe the targeted student population including key demographic data (academic performance, home languages, ELL and special education populations). Identify where these students are most likely being educated currently and why they are expected to choose the proposed charter school for their future educational needs.

The Pueblo of Laguna boundary is spread over 550,000 acres in west central New Mexico, 55 miles west of Albuquerque on I-40. It is the largest Keresan speaking Pueblo, with approximately eight thousand members.

Laguna Pueblo comprises six major villages, Laguna, Paguete, Encinal, Mesita, Seama, Paraje, with the political center at Laguna. The majority of the students expected to enroll will reside within or near the Pueblo of Laguna reservation. Kawaika is the Keres name for Laguna. As a public charter school, Kawaika High School will be open to any New Mexico student, although the school expects to primarily attract students within commuting distance of the school located in Eastern Cibola County including special student populations such as gifted and talented students, students attending schools designated as "needs improvement", those who are struggling academically, those having special needs, and those students in need of a quality educational option. Approximately 100 students are expected to enroll, most are currently attending the local Laguna-Acoma High School where the 2010 State PED report indicated that the school did not make AYP and the school is on probation status. The majority of students are Laguna tribal members who are not fluent in their Keres language, over 80% qualify for free or reduced lunch and will need bus transportation. The majority of students also come from homes where their parents meet the federal guidelines of falling within the poverty level and the unemployment rate is 16.9% compared to the national average of 9%. Approximately 20% will need Special Education services not including other program support such as Language, Math and Reading remediation, credit recovery and alternative education services to complete the state standards for graduation. Students will view the new Kawaika High School (KHS) as an opportunity to complete their high school education where the history, culture, language and values of the local communities are embraced and become part of the classroom for teaching and learning. KHS will be an alternative for many students who want an educational experience of "learn by doing" and will graduate and with a choice of entering the workforce in America or continue their education at a college or post secondary technical/training school.

9. Evidence and assessment of a community need for a school of this nature: Detail any objective surveys or other measures of local demand for the proposed educational program.

The Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Council created the Laguna Education Priorities Committee of nine people chaired by the Pueblo of Laguna 2nd Lt. Governor and comprised of educators, business leaders and community members. Their goal was to assess the issues associated with the lack of progress by Laguna students attending local schools including the Laguna-Acoma High School operated by the Grants Cibola County School District (GCCSD). Since the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Law, the school has failed to make Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) according to annual reports by the NM State Public Education Department. Over a ten year period of repeated attempts by the GCCSD and PED to improve the academic success of Laguna students including instituting the Educational Plan for Student Success and a School Improvement Grant the school has not made AYP and the school is now been placed on R2 status for the 2011 school year. In addition the Committee found that an exodus of students from L-A High School has been occurring over the last four years because students and parents are not satisfied with programs and services partly due to the instability in retaining a quality school principal. The Committee has also heard from local employers that students entering the workforce out of high school are not prepared with basic requisite skill sets for entry level positions. They have also heard from the Laguna Higher Education Department that administers the scholarship program that fund over 100 students each school year. The Director reported that most Laguna students entering their freshmen year were required to enroll in remedial coursework prior to beginning earning college credits in addition to facing the challenges of being away from home for the first time.

10. Key innovative, unique and/or programmatic features the school will implement in order to accomplish its vision and mission (non-traditional school year, longer school day, partner organizations, etc.)


The school will provide access to computer and other state of the art technologies as tools to support a curriculum that emphasizes literacy, math, science and vocational hands on experience in a flexible school day and year designed to meet student needs as well as state education standards. Students will benefit from a personalized education plan that will document the status of academic progress including their health and wellness on a continuous basis by the student and school staff. Their academic, social and emotional needs will be supported through Positive Youth Development programs such as service learning, mentoring and leadership programs developed in partnership with local government, nongovernmental agencies, organizations and the private sector.

11. How the school will be more effective than the schools currently serving the targeted student population, and/or plans to improve student achievement and exceed the academic performance of existing public schools in the targeted service area and any data you have to support this assumption.

KHS will redefine the approach and strategy of a high school education. The school will embrace each student and their family through a process of goal setting and development of a personalized education plan that will include; a

student profile, academic goals, accountability reports and a portfolio of academic and extracurricular activities that will be updated on a quarterly basis. They will also be asked to contribute a personal measurable specific act of time or commitment in a written contract. Each student will be assigned to a staff member who will mentor and advocate for their needs. Quarterly progress meetings by all pertinent school staff will review each student's; short cycle assessments, progress toward goals, their health and wellness, grades, attendance and family support will be the basis for adjustments of the student plan in collaboration with each student and their families.

Signature of founder(s)



Date: 1-10-2012

Gilbert Sanchez

[PRINT NAME]